

# THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOL. XXII. NO. 22.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1903.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## NEW FIRE HOUSES.

THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTS THE REPORT OF CHAIRMAN FARRAND OF THE FIRE COMMITTEE.

Property to be Purchased and Buildings Erected that will involve an expenditure of \$20,000. The purchase of the Nash property killed, and he spoke against the adoption of the resolution, but it was carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

The Washington street fire house was then taken up as the first recommendation in the report.

Councilman Walker asked if it was not possible to keep the total expenditure for the fire houses within \$20,000. Mr. Farrand replied that it was both possible and probable.

Mr. Walker declared that he was as firmly opposed to the issuing of any more municipal bonds at the present time as any member of the Council, but Saturday's trip through the fire houses had converted him into an advocate of new fire houses, but if there had been any way to better house the fire companies that would have avoided an issue of bonds he would have favored it.

Mr. Walker regarded the matter of transportation of the fire apparatus as of equal importance with that of buildings, and he suggested that the Fire Committee go a little slower in the matter of new buildings until it was known what provisions could be made for transportation of the hose wagons and truck to fire.

"It should be borne in mind," said Mr. Walker, "that bonds can only be issued for a term of twenty years, and a part of the principal of the proposed issue will have to go in the next every year in addition to the interest charges."

Councilman Harrison made a motion that the Washington street site be adopted with a proviso that plans for a building be submitted to the Council for adoption.

Mr. Moore made extensive remarks in favor of the erection of such a building on Washington street as would be suitable for all official town purposes. Plans, he said, had been submitted showing that a building answering such purposes could be erected for \$20,000. In his opinion the site was an advantageous one, and when certain improvements now under way on the Lackawanna line were completed, the advantage would be further increased.

Mr. Moore pointed out the economy of making the Washington street building suitable for town offices. For an expenditure of \$14,000 the town was going to own fire headquarters that now cost \$450 annually in rent; for an additional \$6,000, the town could secure office rooms that now cost \$1,000 annually in rentals, and he offered an amendment to Dr. Harrison's motion that the proposed Washington street building be made suitable for all town offices.

Mr. Walker opposed Mr. Moore's recommendation on the ground that the erection of fire houses was the only question before the Council. The vote was then taken on Dr. Harrison's motion, and it was unanimously carried.

The next recommendation considered was \$3,000 for the purchase of property on the east side of Orange street opposite Willow street as a site for a brick building to be occupied by Active Hose Company No. 2.

Councilman Conlan moved the adoption of the recommendation, and it was carried unanimously. The purchase of Excelsior Hose House for \$3,500 was the next recommendation considered.

Mr. Moore put some questions to the Fire Committee about the condition and the original cost of the Excelsior Company's building.

Mr. Walker replied that he had recently inspected the building and found it in good condition, and in his opinion the ground could not be purchased and the building duplicated for the price named. The purchase of the Excelsior Company's property includes a hose drying tower that costs \$1,000. The recommendation was adopted, Mr. Moore alone voting no. Mr. Moore's negative vote was not in opposition to the purchase, but on the proposition to purchase without definite information about the property.

The Montgomery district recommendation was next considered. The sum named was \$1,500 divided as follows: \$500 for a lot and \$1,000 for a building. Mr. Farrand moved the adoption of the recommendation.

## SPEEDY SETTLEMENT

Promised in the Linden Avenue Improvement Case. The Matter Again Placed in the Hands of the Sidewalk Committee With Power to Engage the Services of an Engineer to Verify the Measurements.

The Town Council took an important step Monday night towards clearing up and disposing of the Linden Avenue improvement case which has been a vexatious problem in municipal affairs for some time past. The usual large array of Linden Avenue property-owners were present at the meeting, but had left the Council room before the Council in the course of its proceedings, arrived at the Linden Avenue matter.

Councilman Conlan made the move towards a settlement of the trouble by a motion that the case be placed back in the hands of the Sidewalk Committee, and that that committee take all necessary steps for an immediate adjustment of the difficulties with the property-owners. The matter, Mr. Conlan said, should not have been taken out of the hands of the Sidewalk Committee, and the only proper place for it to be handled by the Council was through the Sidewalk Committee. Mr. Conlan's motion was seconded by Councilman Harrison.

Councilman Farrand said that he never understood that the matter had been taken out of the hands of the Sidewalk Committee, and he regarded the present attitude of the case in so far as the Council was concerned as due to a misunderstanding.

Councilman Moore, Chairman of the Sidewalk Committee, said that there had no doubt been some misapprehension at the time, but in accordance with rules of parliamentary practice the matter had been taken from the hands of the Sidewalk Committee. Mr. Moore said that the Sidewalk Committee stood ready to take up the work, and he asked that the motion made by Mr. Conlan include power on the part of the Sidewalk Committee to engage the services of an engineer.

Councilman Chabot asked why Town Engineer Olmsted could not do the work?

Mr. Moore replied that owing to the nature of the case and the several disputes that had arisen, Mr. Olmsted was not the proper party to employ. It was Mr. Olmsted's measurements that were in dispute, and it was obvious that to have Mr. Olmsted verify his own measurements would not give satisfaction to the property-owners. And again if Mr. Olmsted again made the measurement and disagreed with his original report, the situation would be still further complicated. Mr. Moore again assured the Council that the Sidewalk Committee would undertake the work, and he felt sure that his colleague Mr. Walker would join with him in it.

Councilman Walker said that he had to confess to a feeling of relief when he was informed that the whole Council had assumed responsibility for the Linden Avenue work, but if it was the desire of the Council, he, as a member of the Sidewalk Committee would try to the best of his ability to bring the matter to a speedy and satisfactory settlement.

## Rev. Mr. Cook's Farewell.

Rev. Charles A. Cook will tomorrow preach the closing sermon of his pastorate of fifteen and a half years with the First Baptist Church. The sermon will express Mr. Cook's good wishes for the church and congregation to which he has ministered so long.

On Wednesday evening a good fellowship and farewell service will be held, at which it is expected that a delegation of the Essex County Christian Endeavor Union will be present to wish pastor Cook God's speed in his new work.

After attending the Monmouth Baptist Association on Thursday, and speaking at a church rally in the Fifth Baptist Church, Newark, that evening, Mr. Cook will start on Friday for the west, where he will attend several Baptist State Conventions in the interests of the new campaign of education in the principles of Christian Stewardship, returning to Bloomfield about October twenty-fourth.

## Sunday-School Rally.

The Sunday-school of the First Baptist Church will hold their annual rally tomorrow. The occasion will be of special interest as the school will meet for the first time in the remodeled and beautiful school-room. New classrooms, new carpets, tinted walls and other improvements make the equipment for Sunday-school work of the First Baptist Church among the most attractive and complete to be found anywhere.

The exercises tomorrow will be general in character, and a cordial invitation is extended to all to visit the school and participate in the joys of the occasion. On Monday evening the Young Men's Barasa Bible Class will hold their annual business meeting and banquet.

## CHARLES STREET CASE.

Property-Owners Petition for the Macadamizing of That Street and the Cost to be Defrayed by General Tax—The Street was Among Those Selected to be Improved Under the Bond Issue, but was Not-Talk of Legal Action to Determine the Issue.

To the Members of the Town Council:

GENTLEMEN: We, the undersigned citizens of this town, being property-owners along Charles street, are desirous of ascertaining when we can expect the macadamizing of the said street. It is a matter of record that this street was named in the list prepared, published and recorded in the county court house at the time the issue of bonds for street improvements was promulgated, and we feel that we have been patient enough during all this period of non-activity on the part of the persons whose duty it was to see that the above mentioned programme was carried out.

Knowing that the money was appropriated for this purpose we feel that we have a right to know why nothing has been accomplished and think that an explanation of this delay should be made to us.

The signers of the above petition are as follows: Charles Jaeger, John Sherman, Thomas Booth, Theodore Mack, Charles Bradley, Charles E. Weden, Frederic Cordes, Philip Ebn, Gustave Holstrom, Lillian Skinner, Frank Hampson, Edward F. Krueger, Martin Hochstahl, Catherine Ferguson, Major H. Betts, Frederic E. Pilch.

Every one of the above named own property along Charles street, and some of them are well known as men who take an active interest in public affairs. Mr. Pilch, one of the signers of the petition, was one of the prime movers in the bonding scheme and was certainly aware of just what was intended to be definitely done.

It will be noted that a strong sentiment pervades the wording of the above petition to the effect that the petitioners have been the victims of a breach of confidence. In fact, the petitioners go so far as to assert that they have been deprived of their legal rights. This assumption is based, of course, on a literal interpretation of the petition that property-owners signed in favor of the bonding scheme. Opinions differ as to the interpretation of that document.

When the Charles street petition was read Monday night Councilman Chabot spoke in reference to it and stated the position of the property-owners and the claim they put forward. Mr. Chabot asked Councilman Farrand for an explanation of the case.

Mr. Farrand in reply stated that he was Chairman of the Road Committee during the time that the bond proceeds were expended in the construction of stone roads, Charles street, Mr. Farrand admitted, was included in the list of streets named for improvement. But the fact that it was so named, Mr. Farrand contended, did not imply a certainty. It simply was among the possibilities and probabilities that Charles street would be included. The Road Committee, in Mr. Farrand's opinion, was not bound to a literal carrying out of the bonding petition, but was allowed some discretion in expending the money to the best general advantage of the town, and in exercising this discretion some departures were made from the original scheme.

Charles street at the time the bonding money was spent, Mr. Farrand claimed, was not sewered and not then in a position of condition to be macadamized, and Clinton street and Grace street were macadamized and the Third Ward received its full quota of the bond proceeds.

The macadamizing of Grace street, Mr. Farrand considered a more important and advantageous piece of work than if Charles street had been chosen. Grace street was a leading thoroughfare between this town and East Orange.

The Road Committee, Mr. Farrand claimed, went just as far as the money it had to expend would allow it to go, and the only way now open to Charles street property-owners to get that street macadamized was by petition and assessment.

Chairman Peterson said that he had heard about the Charles street case and had investigated it and had sought legal advice as to what action the Council could take in the matter, and had been told that the Council had no right to act except by the legal process of petition and assessment now followed in all cases of road and sidewalk improvements.

## Farewell Reception.

There will be a farewell reception to Rev. Dr. James T. Dickinson in Franklin School Hall, Dodd street, East Orange, to-night by the members of the Board of Education of East Orange and the teachers and pupils of the school. Residents of the First Ward, where Dr. Dickinson resides, will also take part. Dr. Dickinson, who will soon leave the pastorate of the North Orange Baptist Church to go to Rochester, has been a member of the East Orange Board of Education for several years.

## Inadequate Facilities.

W. E. Smith, Chief Engineer of the Glen Ridge Borough Fire Department, has requested the Borough Council to amend the fire ordinance so that the membership of the department can be increased from twenty-five to forty members, and to limit the new membership to persons who are in the borough during the day time.

Chief Smith also asked the Council to purchase 500 feet of new hose. It was absolutely necessary for efficient work, and without it he did not care to assume the responsibility of fighting fires in the future. No hose had been purchased in at least three years, and he feared that some in use was rotted. He also expressed the hope that the borough would make provision to supply a steam heating apparatus for the fire house, and that a tender be bought for carrying additional hose and other appliances needed by the men. Hoses were desirable, but not unless they were kept on the premises occupied by the apparatus.

Experiences had shown that a horse located 500 feet away from the fire house had caused delay instead of progress. "Just think of it, gentlemen," said Chief Smith in addressing the Council, "Suppose a fire breaks out at night and an alarm is given. The man to get here first must light a lantern, run to the barn over there, 500 feet away; he must unlock the door, go into the stall and kick the horse up on its feet, get a bit into its mouth, put the harness on it, and then run over to the fire house to hitch it fast to the apparatus! Meanwhile a dozen or twenty men have arrived, and they are jumping up and down anxious to get started."

Foreman Root supplemented the chief's statements. "We are not doing fire duty for the love of the thing," he declared at the outset. "We are glad to give our services to the citizens," said he, "but (pointing to the official table) you have to have tools to work with, and so it is with us." The foreman knew that this all "meant money," and the foreman didn't care for much, but felt that they were entitled to the necessary appliances with which to do the work that was expected of them. Another item recommended was an additional fire alarm box to be stationed at the corner of Ridgewood and Afton avenues, where it was badly needed.

Chief Smith showed some samples of fire hose, and the Councilmen, after referring his recommendations to the Fire Committee, promised to give them due consideration.

## Professor Flamer Installed.

The Rev. Arnold W. Flamer, Ph. D., was installed Monday night as professor of ethics and New Testament exegesis in the German Theological Seminary. The services took place in the Westminster Presbyterian Church and was largely attended. The exercises were opened with a duet, followed by the reading of Scripture by Rev. C. Hook, and prayer by Rev. Dr. H. J. Weber. After a vocal solo by Millard Roubaud, in the charge to Professor Flamer was delivered by Rev. Dr. David Frazer, President of the Board of Directors. At its conclusion the newly elected professor delivered his inaugural address. His subject was "Correlation of Ethics and Religion."

At the conclusion of the address Rev. Dr. I. B. Hopwood offered prayer and Rev. Julius H. Wolfe pronounced the benediction.

Professor Flamer was born in Havana, Ill., and at the age of fifteen came here and entered the German Theological Seminary. He graduated after seven years and went to Germany, where he entered the University of Leipzig. Returning to this country, he entered Columbia College. In 1898 he received his degree of D. D. from the New York University and delivered the doctor's oration.

During his studies in the colleges he was pastor for twelve years of the Hopkins street German Presbyterian Church, which under his pastorate grew rapidly. At the services Monday night were fifteen members of the Young Men's Christian Culture Club of the church, which Dr. Flamer organized.

## Empire Theatre.

Nat M. Willis in Broadhurst & Currie's big bright musical organization of sixty people will appear at the Empire Theatre, Newark, for the week commencing Monday, September 28, when its patrons will have a chance to see the funniest comedian on the American stage in new surroundings. Mr. Willis will appear in a new farcical comedy entitled "A Son of Rest," which is described as a thoroughly modern entertainment, the principal and component parts of which are fun, music, pretty girls, stunning costumes and bright lights. Mr. Willis plays the part of Hunting Grubb, a happy-go-lucky American wanderer, with a pleasing knack of singing and dancing at intervals. The character is a quaintly unique one, and fits this comedian's personality like the proverbial glove. The scenic settings are said to be magnificent, and the costumes elaborate and costly. Matinees Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

## SCHOOL LAW UPSET.

COURT OF ERRORS AND APPEAL DECIDES MC KEE ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Great Confusion Caused in the Administration of Public Schools—Talk at a Special Session of the Legislature to Remedy Defects—Superintendent Chancellor is of the Opinion that the Trouble will be Easily Adjusted.

The Court of Errors and Appeal rendered a decision on Monday declaring the McKee school act unconstitutional. The exception of some municipalities in the State from having to comply with the provisions of the act rendered it an unconstitutional law.

Every school district in the State is affected by Monday's decision and the conducting of public schools will be carried on subject to a makeshift policy until the Legislature meets and remedies the defects in the law along lines indicated by the court.

With Boards of Estimate removed from office; with no way in which to legally distribute the school moneys because no school census has been taken as provided under the old school law; with the State Board of Education as now constituted made an illegal body; with no method for the payment of salaries of county superintendents, not to mention a score or more of other complications, it is apparent that drastic measures must be taken to prevent the entire demoralization of the government of the schools in the four months that will intervene between now and the convening of the regular session of the Legislature.

The Legislature of late years has made some astounding blunders in public school legislation, and the experience of the past ought to serve as a lesson to the next Legislature to take special pains towards framing a law that cannot be upset by reason of constitutional defects. It has been urged that the confusion in school affairs caused by Monday's decision is of sufficient importance for the calling of a special session of the Legislature. The Newark News says:

One course suggested as a preventive of confusion is that the court of last resort, following the precedent it established when the Stokes act was upset, shall withhold the formal entry of its judgment until the legislators shall have had an opportunity to cure the defects in the law by the passage of another statute. It is evident, however, that the precedent so established is a dangerous one and should never again be followed. The failure to record the decision is a virtual tampering with the constitution, or, at least, a flagrant disregard of it that is not justified by the present situation. It is questionable whether conditions could arise that would warrant the condoning of such disregard of the fundamental law of the State.

The other alternative is the calling of a special session of the Legislature to rectify the mistakes made in the McKee act. It should not be a difficult task, in the light of the decision just rendered, to eliminate the unconstitutional features, and it is probable that when the formal opinion of the court is handed down in the course of a few days, the path of the legislators in drafting and considering a new bill will be further illumined. Governor Murphy should not hesitate to act in this matter when the welfare of the schools of the State is at stake. With the school law out of the way there will be opportunity for more satisfactory legislation at the regular session, and the dangers of complications in the school law will be also lessened.

It is to be remembered in this connection that had the school bill, as it was introduced in the Legislature of 1902, been passed without tinkering, it would have been found to be constitutional. The amendments that were made to the measure at the instance of officials of certain school districts were entirely responsible for the adverse decision of the court.

Superintendent of Schools William E. Chancellor, in speaking on the decision of the court, said that he thought all the defects in the law would be remedied at the next session of the Legislature, and he did not think that any one in Bloomfield would take advantage of the unsettled situation to embarrass school affairs here.

## A Surprise Party.

A very pleasant surprise party was tendered to Mrs. James Chambers of Lake street by a large number of her friends in honor of her birthday. A pleasant evening was spent in playing games. Vocal and instrumental music was rendered, and Mr. and Mrs. Chambers sang solos. Mrs. Chambers received many handsome presents. Guests were present from New York, Montclair, and East Orange. Supper was served at 12 o'clock and it was in the early hours of the morning when the guests departed in a merry mood.

